

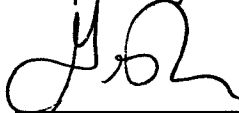
### **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15 and 16 are canceled without prejudice. Claim 2 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of independent claim 1. Since the Office has indicated that claims 2 - 8, 12 and 14 are allowable if rewritten in independent form, it is submitted that the above amendment renders the application suitable for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application, as amended, be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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Gerard J. McGowan, Jr.  
Registration No. 29,412  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

GJM/mpk  
(201) 894-2297